

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 19, 2007. Claims 1 to 18 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to for (1) failing to include a reference numeral mentioned in the description, and for (2) including reference numerals not mentioned in the description. In addition, the specification was objected to for an informality. Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments and substitute drawings submitted herewith address these objections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these objections.

Claims 5, 11 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for reciting a limitation which allegedly lacks proper antecedent basis. In particular, the Examiner alleged that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the phrase "said second ID". Applicants have corrected errors in the dependency of the claims and accordingly respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner alleged that these claims are directed to software *per se*. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicants have amended Claims 1 to 6 to clarify that the claims are directed to a computer-executable print control program stored on a computer-readable medium and executed by an information processing apparatus. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 3, 7 and 13 to 15 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1 to 3 and 11 to 14 of

copending U.S. Application No. 10/774,473. Applicants respectfully submit that the provisional rejection is premature as neither this application nor U.S. Application No. 10/774,473 have been identified as having allowable claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner hold this rejection in abeyance until such time as there are allowable claims in on or the other of the applications.

Claims 1 to 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,115,132 (Nakatsuma) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,380,951 (Petchenkine). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns sending print jobs to alternative printers. Specifically, an information processing apparatus operating in accordance with the invention changes a destination printer to an alternation destination printer before the spooling step has completed the spooling of the print data. The control step concurrently performs the spooling of the print data in the spooling step and output of the print data to the alternation destination printer.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a computer-executable print control program stored on a computer-readable medium and executed by an information processing apparatus. The program includes a spooling step of spooling print data created and spooled via a print data creation module again; a changing step of changing a destination printer to an alternation destination printer before the spooling step has completed the spooling of the print data; and a control step of concurrently performing the spooling of the print data of said spooling step and output of the print data to the alternation destination printer.

Amended independent Claims 7 and 13 are directed to a method and an apparatus, respectively, substantially in accordance with the computer-readable storage medium of Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Nakatsuma and Petchenkine, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the computer-readable medium of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of a changing step of changing a destination printer to an alternation destination printer before the spooling step has completed the spooling of the print data. The control step concurrently performs the spooling of the print data in the spooling step and output of the print data to the alternation destination printer.

In contrast, Nakatsuma discloses sending print data to network printer 701 after virtual print spooler 801 spools the print data again. Petchenkine discloses concurrently performing data spooling and outputting. However, neither Nakatsuma nor Petchenkine disclose or suggest changing an originally intended destination printer to another destination printer before re-spooling of print data has been completed, and performing outputting of the print data to the other destination printer in parallel with the re-spooling.

In light of the deficiencies of Nakatsuma and Petchenkine as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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